



Board of Directors

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Adriana Greci Green
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Larry Griffin
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Charles Seeley
Lansing

Tom Shawver
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Ralph Sims
Lansing

Louise W. Stilwill
East Lansing

Paul M. Tarr, Jr
Lansing

Morris Thomas
Lansing

Bill Wellman
East Lansing

Geneva Kebler Wiskemann
Lansing



Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michigan Historical Museum

Lansing, Michigan

June 9, 2008

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the Executive Committee (Committee) of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History (Friends) to order at 10:05 A.M.

Board Members Present: Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Larry Griffin, Charles Seeley, Ralph Sims, Bus Spaniola, Louise Stilwill, Morris Thomas, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Kebler Wiskemann.

Board Members Absent: David Brickey, Adriana Greci Green, Tom Shawver, Paul Tarr, and Tom Truscott.

Board Members Excused: Adriana Greci Green, Tom Shawver, Paul Tarr, and Tom Truscott.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Martha Bloomfield.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the May 2008 Board meeting; motion passed.

President Report

The President presented his report which is attached (see Attachment 1).

Vice President Report

No report was presented since the Vice President was absent.

Secretary Report

The Secretary indicated that he had nothing more to report than the Board minutes the he prepares each month.

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer indicated that his annual financial report would not be completed until the end of the month. He then presented his financial report for May.

BALANCE	5-01-08	10,633.66
Deposit	5-05-08	<u>+786.15</u>
Total		11,419.81

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Treasurer Report continued

Total			11,419.81
Cashed Checks			
#1365	Walker Tavern	49.80	
#1367	Fayette	<u>26.60</u>	
		76.40	<u>- 76.40</u>
BALANCE	5-31-08		11,343.41

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

No bills were presented for payment.

Museum Report

Martha Bloomfield presented a calendar list of programs that will take place at the Museum from November 2008 through April 2009 (see Attachment 2).

Committee Reports

A. *2008 Veterans Day Program Committee (Paul Tarr and Tom Shawver – Co chairs):* No report. President Spaniola indicated that he would get with Paul Tarr to see if a speaker had been contacted. Geneva Kebler Wiskemann reminded the Board that if a speaker could not be obtained, she might still be able to get the Library of Congress Historian as an alternative.

B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair).* Keith Harrison thanked Ralph Sims, Dick Johnson, Larry Griffin, and Charles Seeley for helping out with the display on May 31st during the *Be a Tourist in Your Own City* program. He also thanked Chris Dancisak for locating additional membership brochures. It was indicated that over 700 people participated in the program this year. The next 5 events where the Friends' Display will be are presented below.

**June 21, 2008 - 15th Annual Lansing Juneteenth Celebration
Lansing, Michigan (St. Joseph Park)**

**Although the celebration takes place from June 19th through 21st.
The best day to set up the display would be during the
festival on Saturday June 21st**

All Day Event

No cost to the Friends to set up display

Contact: Friends' Board Member Ralph Sims <SIMSR@michigan.gov>

Board Display staffing: Ralph Sims, Charles Seeley

**July 15, 16, 17, 2008 – Ag Expo
East Lansing, Michigan (Michigan State University)
Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
All Day Event (All three Days)**

No cost to the Friends to set up display

Contact: Friends' Board Member Charles Seeley <517-321-9586>

Board Display staffing: Keith Harrison, Charles Seeley

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August 2, 2008 - African-American Parade & Picnic

Lansing, Michigan (Ferris Park)

Parade and picnic are sponsored by the Capital City African-American Cultural Association.

Set up for the picnic begins at 9:00 AM. The parade begins at 11:00 AM

All Day Event

No cost to Friends to set up display

Contact: Friends' Board Member Ralph Sims <SIMSR@michigan.gov>

Board Display staffing: Ralph Sims, Keith Harrison

August 23, 24, 2008 - Civil War Muster

Jackson, Michigan (Jackson Cascades Park)

Saturday 9 AM – 4 PM

Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

24th Annual Civil War Muster

Set up same as last year - in the Band Shell.

All Day Event (both days)

No cost to the Friends to set up display

Contact: Friends' Board Member Keith Harrison <pcinc@prodigy.net>

Board Display staffing: Keith Harrison (set up only both days)

September 6, 7, 2008 - Founder's Day and Sesquicentennial of Corunna

Corunna Michigan

Saturday – Times are unknown at this time

Sunday – Times are unknown at this time

All Day Event (both days)

No cost to the Friends to set up display

Contact: Friends' Board Member Bus Spaniola <busman4@verizon.net>

Board Display staffing: Bus Spaniola

November 7, 8, 2008 (Oral History for Michigan: A Conference)

Rogers City, Michigan (Grambau Education Center 251 West Huron Avenue)

Saturday – Times are unknown at this time

Sunday – Times are unknown at this time

All Day Event (both days)

No cost to the Friends to set up display

Contact: Friends' Board Member Geneva Kebler Wiskemann

<gwiskemann@arq.net>

Board Display staffing: Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, Bill Wellman

Secretary Harrison indicated that the Friends were getting low on membership brochures and that more were needed if we were going to have enough for all the various events. He also indicated that he had sent several emails into the Museum to see what would be the best way to obtain more brochures. He had not received a conclusive answer yet.

C. *Board Nominating Committee (Charles Seeley appointed)*. It was indicated that the report of this committee was presented at the last Board meeting and that election of Board officers for 2008/2009 would take place towards the end of this meeting.

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D. *Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair)*. No report.

E. *Grants Committee (Adriana Greci Green - Chair)*. No report.

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Tom Shawver – Co Chairs)*. No report.

G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair)*. President Spaniola indicated that a tentative date of October 4 has been set for the first musical fund raising program. The group to appear will be the Jeff Hass Trio out of Traverse City, Michigan.

A motion was made and seconded to allocate up to \$2,000 for the proposed October 4, 2008 Jeff Hass Trio program; motion passed.

President Spaniola also indicated that the Collette Travel fund raising proposition (whereby Friends members could receive percentage discounts on travel packages), could be advertise in our Newsletter. This could be done in a number of ways, including placing an insert into our Newsletter. Similarly, an arrangement could be made and advertised in our Newsletter to help promote Michigan History with a tour of the Friends' affiliates and other Michigan history locations. It was indicated that both proposals should be followed up on and that the Friends' Newsletter Committee be involved to determine the best approach to advertise these two programs.

Cindy Kress from Barnes and Nobel was introduced. She indicated that she had investigated the possibility of providing a discount to Friends' members per the request at the last meeting. Barnes and Nobel could not provide a discount; however, it could provide a percentage of sales of books bought by the Friends' members during one of Barnes and Nobel's fund raising programs discussed at the last meeting. She indicated that fund raising program could be held in conjunction with a book signing by a notable Michigan author on a weekend in one or both of its stores in the Lansing area. In recognition that the Friends only have one display, another alternative would be to have the program at one store on a Saturday and then the same program at the other store on Sunday. She also indicated the Barnes and Nobel would assist the Friends in locating notable Michigan Authors. She indicated that she had narrowed down the possible date that the Friends could have the program. She would follow up with President Spaniola to finalize a date.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Friends President to proceed with the signing of the contract with Barnes and Nobel once a mutually agreeable date was reached; motion passed.

A question was raised regarding the Friends obtaining a Friends of Michigan Credit Card. It was requested that the President and the Treasurer look into the requirements of such a program and report back once the information had been obtained.

Old Business

A. *Events*. President Spaniola stated that he had talked with author Lauri Perkins, who wrote book on the *Wreck on the Wabash*, about putting on a book signing program.

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A motion was made and seconded to hold a book signing program (Wreak on the Wabash) on Sunday, October 19, 2008 and to allocate up to \$100 for the program; motion passed.

B. *License Plates.* Currently, the bill to establish the license plate is still pending.

C. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status.* President Spaniola indicated that the Board was working with both Fayette and Walker Tavern in terms of their getting in the required material to be submitted with the IRS application for a Group Exemption Number. Thus far, only Fayette has submitted a portion of the material needed. A new request for the missing material from Fayette and for all of the required material from Walker Tavern would be sent following this meeting.

D. *Conservation of Historical Photographs.* State Archivist Mark Harvey thanked those from the Friends that were able to attend the Opening Reception for the *Lansing through the Lens of R.C. Leavenworth Program* on May 29, 2008. He indicated that there were about 100 attendees. They sold about \$300 worth of prints. He also indicated that the catering costs were a little higher than the Friends had authorized.

Mr. Harvey indicated that the Archives was in need of aftermarket walk-in freezers that will achieve a temperature of zero degrees. They have been looking commercially for these and thus far have found three units that would cost about \$13,500 for 215 cu ft of storage. This would handle the entire collection. It was asked if the Michigan Historical Center Foundation (Foundation) could possibly help out with the cost of the units. He indicated that he had not approached the Foundation but he would check.

Mr. Harvey indicated that there was a federal bill designed to conserve American Historical Records that could use support. The bill, HB 6056, would allocate \$50 million with the state receiving \$1.7 million.

Mr. Harvey also indicated that there was a proposal being offered the state to purchase a significant part of Michigan's history in the form of archival photographic film plates from the award-winning book project, *Voelker's Pond, A Robert Traver Legacy*. The book was a 2003 Library of Michigan Notable Book Award Winner. The proposal includes all of the original film from the book as well as never before seen photographs created during the making of Voelker's Pond. The cost of the proposal is \$43,000. This includes the purchase of 300 copies of the book by the state at \$20.00 per book. The state could then resell the books at \$90.00 each.

E. *Telephonic Board Attendance.* Nothing has changed since the last meeting. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability.

New Business

A. *Battle Streamers for Civil War Muster.* Keith Harrison passed out an invoice with mockup a for the proposed battle streamers for the August Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster.

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It was moved and seconded that up to \$275 be authorized for the purchase of the Jackson Cascades Civil War reenactment battle streamers; motion passed

Election of Board Officers and Executive Committee Member for 2008/2009

A motion was made and seconded to elect the following slate of Board of officers and Executive Committee Member for 2008/2009; motion passed.

President:	Francis "Bus" Spaniola
Vice President:	Tom Truscott
Secretary:	Keith Harrison
Treasurer:	Richard Johnson
Executive Committee Member-at-Large:	Paul M. Tarr, Jr.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, July 14, 2008, in Lansing.

Attachment 1. Friends of Michigan History President's Annual Report.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year 2007/2008 JUNE 8, 2008

The fiscal year 2007/2008 was a rewarding year for the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. Our mission to support Michigan Historical Center operations was successfully implemented because of the dedicated efforts of the Board of Directors, who are all non-paid volunteers, the cooperative efforts of many dedicated employees of the Michigan Historical Center along with the Executive Director and the board members of the Michigan Historical Foundation.

Among the purposes for which the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. was organized is to "receive and administer funds for the betterment of the Michigan Historical Center and other Michigan organizations devoted to the fostering and preservation of Michigan; to promote the educational and interpretive activities of the Historical Center and other Michigan organizations that promote the preservation of Michigan History; and to support the museum, docent, archives and archaeology programs conducted by the Michigan Historical Center." Therefore, I am proud to report some of our activities in support of the aforementioned goals:

- * Allocated \$4,000 for the Historical Center's A Hunting We Will Go exhibit.
- * \$5,000 is earmarked for the 2009 Michigan Roadside Attractions exhibit.
- * Contributed \$1,000 in support of the Statehood Day Celebration.
- * Sponsored the annual Veterans Day Program which featured Donald Burgett, who is a veteran of World War II and author of four books about the war in Europe
- * Donated \$5,000 to the Michigan Archives Leavenworth Project through the generosity of our treasurer, Dr. Richard Johnson.
- Donated \$1,000 to the Michigan State Archives for document conservation.
- Allocated \$500 for refreshments for the opening of the Leavenworth Exhibit.
- Contributed up to \$2,000 in support of the Museum's second Winter Fest.
- Donated over \$700 for Honoraria in support of Archaeology Day.
- Contributed \$450 for 2007 Michigan History Day Awards.
- Allocated \$450 for 2008 Michigan History Day Awards.
- Donated \$500 in support of the annual Michigan Oral History Association program.
- Contributed \$250 to Historic Fort Wayne Coalition to support restoration activities at the fort.
- Donated \$825 in support of the Jackson Civil War Reenactment program.
- Allocated \$500 for the opening of the Archives exhibit fund raiser.
- The friends have directly contributed and/or allocated nearly \$22,000 for museum and historical operations during 2007/2008.

Our Fayette Historic Town site affiliate is raising money to restore Building #4 to house "archaeology finding related to Native Americans of the Fayette area". The goal is to raise and contribute \$12,000 to complete the project over the next two to three years.

The Friends of Michigan History affiliate at Walker Tavern is working in support of the Hewitt House renovation helping to raise \$35,055 needed in addition to \$22,945 in matching funds that have been raised to date.

Our affiliates have over \$15,000 collectively in their treasuries. This money will support program and facility enhancements at each location.

It is important to report that the Friends and the Michigan Historical Center Foundation have signed an agreement for another year continuing to work together for the benefit of the Historical Center. This working relationship helps attract new Friends members and added over \$4,000 in revenue for the Foundation this fiscal year. I believe our association with the Foundation will help us accomplish many great things in the future.

Major challenges for 2008/2009 include the need to increase our total membership which now totals over 600 members. A number of exciting fundraising and membership building activities will be unveiled over the next few months. We still must complete the application for IRS Group Exemption for our affiliates. It is my hope that will be completed within the next two months.

In view of the State of Michigan's budget constraints, our contributions to museum programs are becoming increasingly more important. Your contributions in time and money have helped the Michigan Historical Center continue offering high quality programs.

I extend my personal thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Francis "Bus" Spaniola
President, Friends of Michigan History Inc.

Attachment 2. Upcoming Programs at the Michigan Historical Museum.

Music at the Museum A New Collaboration between Michigan State University and the Michigan Historical Museum

Sunday, November 2, 2008, 1:30 – 2:30 PM – A Woodwind Quintet
Sunday, December 7, 2008, 1:30 – 2:30 PM – A Brass Quintet
Sunday, February 1, 2009, 1:30 – 2:30 PM – A Saxophone Quartet
Sunday, March 1, 2009, 1:30 – 2:30 PM – A Saxophone Quartet
Sunday April 5, 2009, 1:30 – 2:30 PM – A Woodwind Quartet

Archaeology Day
Saturday October 11, 2008, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

WinterFEST
Saturday, December 6, 2008, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Statehood Day
Saturday, January 24, 2009, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM